

SAN FERNANDO SUPERFUND SITE



North Hollywood,
California



May
1989



AGENCIES ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD GROUNDWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

OPEN HOUSE AT TREATMENT FACILITY

You are invited to attend an Open House at the new North Hollywood Treatment Plant, 11845 Vose Street, North Hollywood to be held May 20, 1989, from 10 am to 12 noon. EPA and DWP officials will be available to show you the plant and to answer your questions. For more information, call DWP Public Affairs Coordinator Sandra Tanaka at (213) 481-6346.

INTRODUCTION

On March 30, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began operation of a groundwater treatment facility in North Hollywood. This plant was constructed to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater used by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) customers for drinking water. The facility is located at 11845 Vose Street in North Hollywood. Funding for the facility was provided by the EPA, Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) as part of the San Fernando Valley Superfund site cleanup.

HISTORY OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD TREATMENT FACILITY

In 1980 the contaminants trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) were discovered in 25% of DWP's wells in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin. For years TCE and PCE were widely used for machinery degreasing, dry cleaning and metal plating.

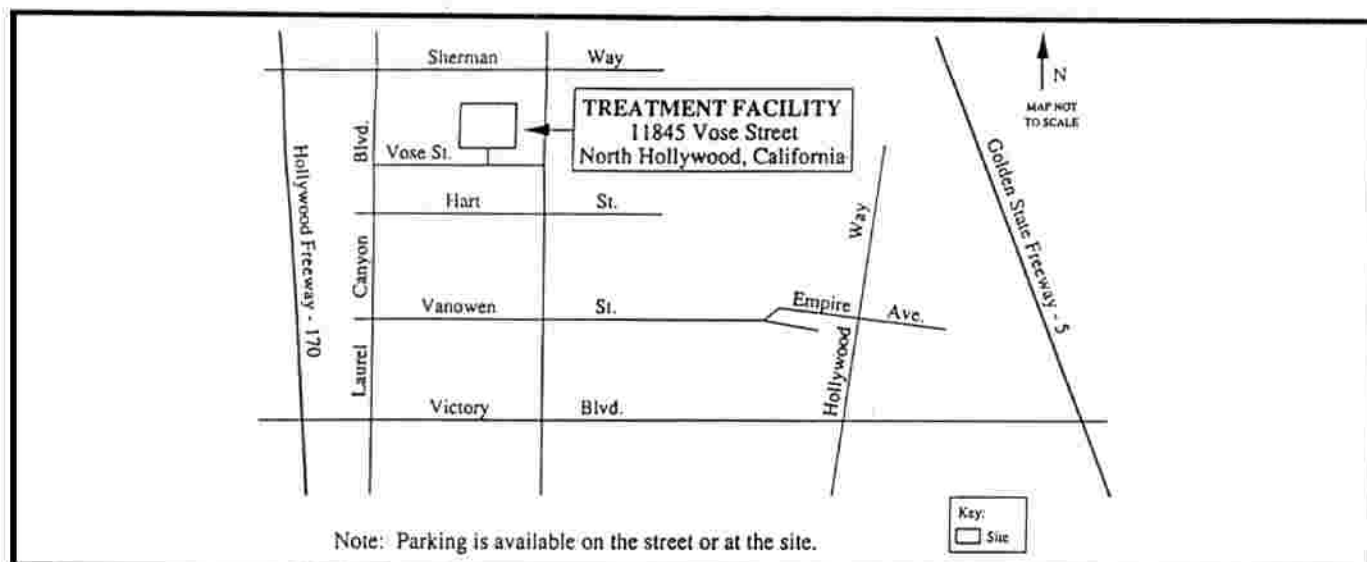
In September 1987 EPA made the decision to construct a facility to treat contaminated groundwater in the North Hollywood area. EPA provided funds to DWP to construct the Treatment Facility.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREATMENT

Using a groundwater extraction technique, the treatment facility will halt the rapid spread of contaminants in the groundwater, principally the VOCs, TCE and PCE. These contaminants have affected several groundwater production wells in the North Hollywood area, precluding their use for public water supply.

Contaminated groundwater will be pumped to the aeration facility where the water will flow through a collection line to the top of a 45-foot tower. As water falls by gravity through the tower and the packing material, an upward air stream will pass through the water, thus

(continued)



Treatment Plant Location

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREATMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

aerating the water and transferring the VOCs into the air stream through evaporation. The contaminated air stream will be filtered through two carbon adsorption tanks containing granulated activated carbon (GAC), a specially treated material that attracts contaminants. Contaminants will cling or "adsorb" to the carbon, leaving the remaining air stream mostly free of contaminants.

Contaminated groundwater will be treated to meet Federal and State drinking water standards. The treated groundwater will then move by gravity through an existing pipeline to DWP's North Hollywood Pumping Station for additional chlorination and distribution into the public water supply.

TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Every four to six months the carbon in the tanks -- used to "strip" the contaminants -- will become saturated with PCE and TCE molecules and will need replacing with new carbon. The used carbon will be removed and taken to another location for treatment and reuse. Maintenance staff will visit the site twice a week to check on automatic equipment, take air and water quality samples, and perform routine maintenance.

EPA will pay for ninety percent of the operation and maintenance (O & M) costs of the new treatment system until the decision is made for the final cleanup measure for this Superfund site. DWP will pay the remaining ten percent of the O & M costs. DWP will pay 100% thereafter as provided by the three-party agreement for this facility.

INVESTIGATION OF CONTAMINATION SOURCE

EPA and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) are investigating possible sources of TCE and PCE contamination. This investigation includes surveys of industries, coordinated interagency record searches, requests for specific information from companies, inspections, and site investigations which may include sampling of soil and/or groundwater.

When the Regional Board identifies individual companies that have contributed to contamination in the North Hollywood area, EPA and/or the Regional Board will negotiate with them to clean up the contamination at their individual locations. Subsequently the agencies will negotiate with these companies to repay costs for previous North Hollywood area investigation and cleanup.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the North Hollywood groundwater treatment facility or about the San Fernando Valley Superfund site project, please call Helen Burke, EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (415) 974-7538 or leave a message on the toll-free message line (800) 231-3075.

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Environmental Protection Agency	San Francisco, CA 94105
Region IX	Attention: Helen King Burke

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Inside:

- *Start-up of North Hollywood Treatment Facility*
- *Invitation to Community Open House*